

Date Oct. 1999

## International Year Of The Older Person

By Twila McWilliam

## A Grandmother's Legacy

Born June 24, 1923 at home, home births were very common especially in rural areas. Twenty- two years Later when I had my first child, an uncomplicated delivery, could mean a hospital stay from 5 to 10 days. How things change.

I've seen many changes in my 76 years, and would like to tell you about my life and the changes that have Occurred.

I remember when I was 4 years old. We lived on 21 Highway near Wabash, the highway was gravel. Department of Highways paved it from Thamesville to Dresden, and my mother boarded the workers. When I was a young child in the 30's, I learned the values of working hard and that even hard work meant you still might have to do without. I was lucky and my parents always made sure my sister and I had food To eat and warm clothes. Even though the "great depression" has been painted by history as one of the "worst of times" my sister and I had a great childhood. I remember Sunday afternoons in January when my father would hitch the horses to the "bob sleigh" loaded with hay and go up and down the concession roads and neighbor children would come out for a ride. I also remember knocks on the door and strangers wanting to work for a meal. Even if there was no work they were never sent away hungry and were offered a warm bed or a place to sleep in the barn. People are still in need as we approach the new millennium and we should remember to offer food and shelter to those less fortunate.

In 1941 I graduated from Chatham Vocational School and went to Chatham Business College. After graduation I worked in offices as temporary (while some on holidays) Full time jobs were hard to find. Part of the Wallaceburg Brass factory was converted to a "bomb room" for making gun shells for World War II. The pay was much better than office work and many around me in the office were going to the Bomb room, so I too became what was referred to as a "Rosey the Rivetter" Mother felt I was throwing My education away. I quit the factory in 1943, twenty days before I got married, as I had a home wedding which required much preparation and for a sit down dinner for over 80 guests.

In 1945 my husband and I had taken over the operation of the family farm. We had a new baby. my husband received notice to obtain his medical to see if he was fit for active duty. The Dr. determined his Heart was not sound and declared him unfit for war. I was relieved he didn't have to go to war, however His heart condition would change my life greatly. Today wars are called conflicts and there are so many we've stopped numbering them but the loss of human life remains the same.

We left the farm and started our own business in 1946. My husband was very mechanically inclined, So we purchased a garage with living quarters attached, built two cabins and renovated to include a small restaurant. Boy were we ambitious! There were no 400 series highways and # 3 highway was a busy place (great for a hard working couple) I still shake my head and know my children doubt me when I Tell them about the Americans that would stop during the hottest part of the summer and wonder where The snow was. They knew very little about Canada back then. This was not surprising, few people Had the new invention called television and what you learned was in the paper or on the radio. Our world was much smaller back then. Today with the Internet and air travel so available to everyone We have a greater knowledge about people all over the world. My husband had no mechanic license And studied every evening finally getting the opportunity to try exams in January of 1947 which he Passed getting the Class A license which was the highest at that time.

In the early 1950's the #3 highway was reconstructed from Eagle to Kent Alborough Townline, taking Out many steep hills that had caused so many fatal accidents which proved beneficial to the wrecker And garage business, but bad on my husbands health. The province offered us a good price for our Property, it was too close to the road, and we sold and we moved to New Glasgow in 1957.



## Deserved Honour

The West Lorne Women's Institute paid tribute to one of its members last week by honouring Twilia McWilliams as its oldest member for 2000. McWilliams read a story of her life history, which will be going into the Tweedsmuir Book at the West Lorne Library.

Continued page 2 The International Year of the Older Woman

With four children, cleaning, canning and helping with the business (running for parts) I had little time For outside activities. I joined the Presbyterian Church at New Glasgow in 1947 and have always been actively involved.. Many laughs, recipes, friends and worthwhile pursuits have taken place in the New Glasgow Ladies Aid Society. My kids say they can't look at a penny without thinking about our penny Drive for the Missionary Society, and the traveling basket (another fund raiser) was always a hit at Our house. Today I'm still raising money for the church. I'm grateful I can't remember how many pot Scratchers I've crocheted for "Mission for Kids", but I'll keep crocheting because we are nearing \$6,000. I am so proud of the help we are giving to local families and children in Northern Korea Orphanages.

1963 will always be remembered as a tragic year. My husband died of a massive coronary. A thriving business and four children, thank goodness for family and friends. The garage was rented and I remarried. My new husband was a great friend and a great father, I stopped pumping gas and driving to the city for car parts, and started bailing hay and feeding pigs, and cattle. My mother-in- law had a huge garden and enjoyed sending green beans by what seemed the bushel basket. None of my children will eat a green bean to this day. I was also sewing and made several bridesmaid dresses for local brides, this proved to be a lot of work and very little money. My daughter and I started to figure out what I was working for. It was too depressing to think about. I still enjoy sewing and crafting, but realize you could never be compensated for the time and care you put into an item.

After 15 years of marriage my husband died from Diabetes. I met my third husband at a church function In 1981. We enjoyed 12 wonderful years together before he passed away in 1993 after several strokes. I Am a grandmother of 4 and 2 great granddaughters.

# WEST LORNE W.I. 1999

## -- GRANDMOTHER'S LEGACY CONTINUED . . .

As a widow I try to keep busy in my community. I am active in the church missionary society, choir, Craft group, and Women's Institute. I joined the Institute in 1986. The W.I. is trying to implement In health care and our efforts to ensure rural communities have access to similar health related services And technology available to those in metropolitan areas. The W.I. promotes education in rural areas, Such as, breast screening, osteoporosis education and prevention and the community abuse program of Rural Ontario. In the over one hundred years of the W.I. many changes have been implemented, Pasteurized milk, sliced bread, signs on buses, slow moving vehicle signs and substantial local donations such as money to build the old town hall in West Lorne. W.I. Also donated much to the New hall.

I would like to thank the W.I. Honoring me as the oldest member in our branch. I have shared some of the changes I have experienced in my life, the changes of W.I. has invoked in their communities make Me proud to be associated with such a worthwhile organization. I hope to continue working with the W.I. for many more years.

I have been a member of the West Lorne Women's Institute for many years. The year 1999 Was declared The International Year of the Older Person.

Our meetings are always the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. In late Sept, our secretary received a Letter from head office. The letter asked for the eldest member to write a Grandmother's Legacy. To be sent to head office by the end of Sept, consequently we did not receive it on time.

At our Oct. meeting they asked who was the eldest, which happened to be me. It was agreed That I would write it, and would be put in our Tweedsmuir book, which is kept at the library in West Lorne.

I completed it and gave it to the president at the end of the November meeting.

At our Christmas dinner Dec. 1999 when all the husbands and children attend, when dinner Was finished, one member came to me with my legacy, and asked if I would read it. They pinned A corsage on me and pinned a ribbon with the words International Year of the Older Person, plus The home newspaper came and took my picture. When I finished reading I received much applause Plus a standing ovation. I was very surprised as I had no idea what to write about.

This year 2001 the Head Office published a book of Grandmother's Legacy's, so of course mine Was not published, due to being too late.

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The West Elgin Chronicle

## West Lorne WI learn the benefits of 911 emergency service

The October meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held in the West Lorne Complex with nine members and two

guests present.

Mary Belle Cook introduced the guest speaker Dennis Harwood. He is a community

service officer with the Elgin OPP. He has been with the force for 25 years.

Harwood spoke on the 911

service and how it is set up. He encouraged people to use the system and not be frightened by it. Ambulance, fire and police are

served through this service.

Harwood also answered questions in regards to the justice circle and scams. Cook thanked the speaker for the informative presentation.

Plans to attend the Cancer Tea were finalized. A letter was received from Aldborough Public School for reading volunteers to help with the reading program.

The Museum Tea is planned for Dec. 3 while the London area convention will be in Mt. Brydges on Oct. 28. Shirley Walker gave a report on the District Directors meeting.

An additional letter was received from Beattie Haven regarding the new housing planned called Riverview Terrace.

## West Lorne Women's Institute

The April meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held at the West Lorne Complex with ten members in attendance.

Following the opening exercises it was decided to have the May meeting at the Cosy Restaurant in Rodney at 6:15 p.m.

The environmental group invited us to join them at their meeting on April 19. Following several other letters of correspondence it was decided to give a contribution to WESES to help them with their book, which is in celebration of the Year of Older Persons. A contribution will also be sent to the Childrens Miracle Network Telethon.

The WI will be catering to a noon day luncheon and the proceeds will be donated to the refugee fund.

A Dutch action followed the meeting. A delicious lunch was served by Leola Lawrence and Helen Mooser.

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## WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Thirteen members of the West Lorne Women's Institute met in the town complex for the October meeting. Marina Lundrigan, the director of the Health Centre was introduced by Mary Belle Cook. Marina spoke about the services available at the centre, staff is salaried and about new services that will be coming in the future. There are 55 health care centers in Ontario. Two full time Medical Doctors are available now and a second nurse practitioner will soon be available.

Following the morning exercises, treasurers and secretary reports were read, plans were made to attend a London area convention to be held in Kirtton. Plans were made to cater to the Kiwanians installation of officers. Thanks to Nancy Baily for

supplying many articles for the new kitchen. Plans were made for next meeting when Crinan, Clachan and Wallacetown W.I. will be our guest to hear the Area President Ann McLean speak. Please bring a recipe. In place of roll call bring a new tea towel for the hall. Cancer tea is in Fingal United Church on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

FWIO

1999

The West Elgin Chronicle

APRIL 1999

# Elgin County Women's Institute

The Spring board of the Elgin County Women's Institute met recently at the County of Elgin building.

Public health nurse Kathy Nisbit spoke on major health problems of seniors who are less active following a fall, due to such things as balance problems, medication or brittle bones.

A Seniors Safety Committee office will be located in East, West and Central Elgin for home assessment. Brochures from Active Coalition for Living Adults and Community Food Supervisor Sherri Sanders were circulated.

Correspondence from FWIO regarding a campaign against Iodine deficiency was received. All fees are due to District Treasurer by June 1.

Provincial Advisory Councilor, Willa Johnston, stated nomination for offices at the provincial level of president elect, four board directors, education coordinator and P.A.C. 18 (this subdivision) member plus an alternate are required.

Membership cards will be issued following payment of member fees. A provincial fund-raiser to consider the sale of address labels was recommended to the marketing committee as a sale item.

The Booth Committee for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair will consider a recommendation to ask a different W.I. celebrity to be present in the booth, as the budget will allow.

Eligibility criteria for the 90th Anniversary Educational Award, the Helen McKercher Scholarship and the Erland Lee Award was presented. Reports were heard from the convenors urging branches to forward their report to the District Governor prior to May 1.

The Elgin Farm Safety Association will hold a two-day semi-

nar for children June 26 at the Rodney Recreation Centre for children seven to 11 years of age from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Information about Conference '98 at Loyalist College (Belleville), was received. The theme will be "Today's Family

Shaping Tomorrow's World."

Plans for Elgin Women's Institute District Annual were made for May 12, with registration at 1 p.m. at North Yarmouth Presbyterian Church.

Stand up! Speak out! Be proud to be a W.I. member.

## Elgin County Women's Institute elect new officers

Elgin County District Women's Institute held their annual meeting at St. James Presbyterian Church recently. The theme for 1999 is "The Older Years - The Golden Years."

Sixteen branch directors or alternates were ratified by PAC member for sub-division 18 Willa Johnston. Correspondence was received from Erland Lee Home announcing a June 15-16 luncheon. The June 23 Strawberry Social will be held at the Elgin Pioneer Museum. Farm Safety Days are planned for June 26 at the Rodney Recreation Centre and the Malahide Fire Hall No. 1 Mount Salem on July 10.

The resolution regarding a name change for the Women's Institute of Ontario declared Elgin members to be opposed to this name change.

Shedden WI conducted an In Memoriam service remembering

departed members, closing with Psalm 23. A display from the health unit announced an open house at the Elgin-St. Thomas General Hospital, presenting an opportunity to view the new mammography suite.

Johnston gave the FWIC report stating nominations are open for the following provincial offices - president elect, education coordinator, four board directors, 10 PAC members including subdivision 18.

Winner of the Dorothy Futcher Scholarship is Marie Brown of Woodstock and alternative winner is Elizabeth Clark of Blenheim. The 1999-2000 officers were installed by Pauline Lindsay, president of the London area

**MAY 99**  
**President**

Madeline Jenkins Belmont

**Vice-President**

M. Veenstra &

Pauline Lindsay

**Past President**

Ann McLean

**Program Coordinator**

Pauline Lindsay

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Grace Campbell

**Public Relations**

Eleanor McMillan

**Resolutions**

Betty VanPatter

**Tweedsmuir History**

Evelyn Hoshal

## Elgin County Women's Institute

Elgin County District Women's Institute held their annual Winter Picnic in Talbotville United Church. Hostess branches for the day were Calton & Clachan. The Institute Grace was sung followed by a bountiful smorgasbord meal.

President Ann McLean welcomed approximately 75 ladies and introduced Pauline Lindsay, President of the London Area Women's Institutes and provincial advisory council representative Willa Johnston.

Theme for the day was Safe and Healthy Communities with each branch giving a five minute presentation on various topics.

An institute song was sung using the theme 'It's a Small, Small World.' A penny table of gifts were drawn with many winners.

Promoting a safe and healthy community is the Farm Safety Association's, who will host day camps on June 26 at the Rodney Recreational Centre (contact person is Lois Woolner at 693-4343).

The other camp will be at Malahide No. 1 Fire Hall, Mount Salem on July 10 (contact person is Ron Hewson at 773-3321). Both camps will run from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. **FEB. 1999**



WEST LORNE W.I.  
DEC. 5, 1999  
WE ENTERTAIN AT  
BOBIER VILLA



NANCY BAILLIE HANDS OUT GIFTS

### West Lorne WI

The West Lorne Women's Institute have been busy the last few weeks. Three members took baking and attended tables at the St. Thomas Elgin Museum on Dec. 3. Thanks ladies.

Members gathered Dec. 3 at the home of Helen Mooser to decorate the float for the Santa Claus Parade. Helen served delicious home rolls, soup and dessert for supper. Thanks Helen. A great time was had by all even in the damp weather and getting first prize for the best illuminated float.

On Dec. 5, institute members, with help from local talent, put on an old fashioned Christmas program for the residents of Bobier Villa. Betty Patterson on piano and Mark Patterson on mandolin accompanied soloist Jennie McDonald and duets by Ester Titus and Gary McNeil.

Mike Miller was great on the trumpet as were junior dancers Katie Miller and Charlotte Noddin. Other participants included senior dancers J. Hilliard (danced in Huron County Playhouse in Singing in the Rain), Breane Podebry, Caitlin and Tanya Van Raes played the piano.

Mary Belle Cook read "The First Christmas", Anita van Raes read Rudolph and singsong followed with a visit from Santa. Each resident received a gift. Thank to everyone that helped bring cheer to the shut-ins.

Members of the institute and their families held their Christmas party at the West Lorne Complex Dec. 7.

Twilla McWilliams was presented with a banner and flowers as she was chosen as the oldest member and to write her memoirs for the Tweedsmuir Book, which is kept in the library. Job well done Twilla.

Dec. '99



# WEST LORNE W. I. 2000

## STALKER

Hazel Lavina Stalker of West Lorne passed away on Tuesday, March 7th, 2000 at the Four Counties Health Services, Newbury in her 75th year. After a lengthy illness, she left this life peacefully surrounded in love by her four daughters. She was predeceased by her husband Bruce in 1981. She will be deeply missed by daughters Carol Stalker, husband Greg McCaughey of Kitchener and their son Ian Dick of London, Betty Stalker of London, Beverly Witroway, husband Glenn and their daughter Crystal of West Lorne, and Helen Kriter, husband Lorne of Rodney and their sons Brian of Toronto and Brad of Rodney. She will be lovingly remembered by sisters Viola Gilbert and husband Ray of London, Rose Warkentin of Kingsville; brothers Douglas Staddon and wife Dorothy of West Lorne, Norman Staddon and wife Pam of St. Thomas, Carl Staddon and wife Georgina of West Lorne, Richard Staddon and wife Carol of Rodney; and sisters-in-law Mary Belle Watterworth of West Lorne and Bertha Stalker of Wardsville. Friends called at the Rodney Chapel, 212 Furnival Road, Rodney on Thursday 2-4 and 7-9pm. Funeral service was held at the Church of Christ (Disciples), West Lorne on Friday at 1pm, with Rev. J. Burner officiating, assisted by Rev. F. Ritchie. Interment Oakland Cemetery. If desired, donations to Four Counties Health Services or ALS Research - Dr. M. Strong, University Hospital would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to the Padfield Funeral Home (519) 785-0810.



HAZEL STALKER

## Bald eagles soar over West Lorne WI

The March meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held at the West Lorne Complex with 11 members in attendance. Mary Belle Cook introduced guest speaker Keith Kelly.

Kelly gave an interesting presentation on the bald eagle. It was 14 years ago, while cutting wood in his bush, that he noticed a pair of bald eagles. He continued to follow these birds and their hab-

its each year.

In 1993, the Ministry of Natural Resources came and helped secure their nest. Each year they hatched two to three chicklings and they are banded to help monitor their progress.



APR. 2000

Kelly also brought along the local post office manual of all the local post offices and who ran them. The WI plan to purchase one for the library if they do not have one.

The minutes and treasurers report were given and correspondence was dealt with. It was announced that a garage sale will be held at the home of Nancy Baily on May 20.

The May meeting is scheduled at the Golden Key Restaurant in Wardsville beginning at 5:30 p.m. The WI will be looking after the May birthday party at the Bobier Villa and the tea room on May 28. Arrangements are also being made for the group to attend *The King and I* at the Grand Bend Playhouse in June.

# WEST LORNE W.I. 50<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE was celebrated on Thursday afternoon with almost 100 members and guests from neighbouring Institutes attending. Pictured here are three charter members and two of today's officers. They are, left to right: Treasurer Mrs. T. F. Ripley, charter president Mrs. T. W. Sims of Brantford, whose husband owned The West Lorne Sun and The Rodney Mercury until 1921; Mrs. W. T. Merrett, who has been a member ever since the Institute started, Mrs. W. A. Becker, the former Mrs. Hugh McKillop of St. Thomas, and 1963 president Mrs. Chas. Cooper.

## Three Charter Members Attend

# WI Marks 50th Birthday

The West Lorne Women's Institute marked a milestone in its history, Thursday, January 31st, when its fiftieth anniversary was celebrated in the Community Hall with an attendance of approximately one hundred.

Mrs. T. W. Sims of Brantford, the first president, and Mrs. W. Becker of St. Thomas, the first secretary-treasurer, were present and recalled memories of the founding and of the early days of the Institute. Mrs. Sims spoke of making a house to house canvass to find women who would be interested in the project. Mrs. W. T. Merrett, the third charter member present, has remained a resident of West Lorne and has been pianist almost continually for the 50 years.

Visiting officers in attendance were: Mrs. M. Hicks of the Provincial Board; Mrs. Daniels, London Area chairman; Mrs. E. S. Downs, president, Mrs. V. Pow, solo, 1st vice-president, and Mrs. J. D. Galbraith, past president of the West Elgin District, and Mrs. G. Young, secretary of the West Elgin Museum. Guests were present from Dutton, Rodney, Crin-

an and Clachan Institutes. An interesting program was presented with Mrs. Charles Cooper, present president, in the chair. The meeting opened with the Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect. Miss Tena McKillop gave the highlights of the Institute for the past 50 years, relating its activities with the motto "For Home and Country."

Mrs. Harvey Wales of Komoka, past London Area president, was guest speaker. She was introduced by Mrs. Wolfgang Liepmann. She gave an interesting account of the National Convention of the Women's Institutes of Canada which she attended last year in Vancouver, B.C. Mrs. Basil Fisher, West Lorne, favored with two beautiful solos.

Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. T. F. Ripley, Mrs. Neil Nickleson took part in an In Memoriam service, Miss Turner singing an appropriate hymn. Mrs. Merrett was pianist throughout the program.

There was an interesting display of antiques in the alcove

from a prettily decorated table centred by the anniversary cake. Mrs. Sims and Mrs. Becker poured tea. Mrs. Jon Jewell, Mrs. Philip Willits and Mrs. Winnifred Liepmann assisted Institute members in serving.

The visiting Institutes expressed their thanks and pleasure at being present.

The food committee included Mrs. P. Schleihauf, Miss T. McKillop, Miss M. Turner, Mrs. Harry Humphries, Mrs. Irene Dymock. The table committee consisted of the food committee and Mrs. V. E. Lemon. Mrs. R. E. Evans and Mrs. Lloyd Butler provided the attractive flower arrangements and looked after antiques. Mrs. Wolfgang Liepmann received the guests. Miss Mima Currie had charge of registration. Mrs. Earl Graham presented special corsages to the members. Mrs. J. Witherden passed out favors to all as they entered. The cake was made by Mrs. T. F. Ripley and iced by Mrs. H. Humphries and Mrs. Walter Cadogan.

At 7.30 the Institute members enjoyed a smorgasbord lunch served by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Peckham. An anniversary cake was provided as a treat by Kiwanis.

On this occasion Mrs. Merrett, charter member, was presented with a copper-tooled planter, the work of Mrs. R. E. Evans.

Messrs. Lemon, Liepmann and Deshpande expressed the appreciation of the men present.

Thanks are due Mr. and Mrs. Doan for their loan of a Hi-Fi and to Mrs. Melani Por for providing records.

Mrs. Cooper, president, and Mrs. Ripley, secretary, deserve a great deal of credit for working out the details of this anniversary.

SUBMITTED BY MARY LIEPMAN  
DAUGHTER OF MRS CADOGAN



# WEST ELGIN

1999



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## Constant Training

West Elgin Council is proud of the fact that its employees are constantly keeping up-to-date with their training and they honoured the latest worker to do so. Municipal employee Chad Yokom, left, receives his certificates from West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail for completion of the Electrical and Utilities Safety Association of Ontario Backhoe/Loader Operator course and the Utility Operators Licensing Program course in Water Distribution Systems.



## Is it one word or two?

Hey, nobody's perfect. These two signs, eastbound along Highway #3 at Highway #76, give motorists the option of how they chose to pronounce West Lorne (or is that WestLorne). And you don't have much time to decide since the signs are just a few metres apart.

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## Mohan Mania

West Elgin is keeping the tradition alive as producing some of the county's best drivers. Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford/Haldimand, Norfolk Counties held their joint Safety Truck Roadeo for municipal workers on April 28. A total of 56 drivers, including 13 from Elgin County, took part in the day long test of driving knowledge and skills. West Elgin roads employee Tom Mohan took the top spot for all of Elgin County and moved on to the provincial competition where he finished second. Here, Mohan, centre, receives his trophy from West Elgin Roads Superintendent and Elgin Roads Superintendents President Rick Jackson, left, and West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail.

December 20, 1999 - Page 3

## McPhail wins Elgin County Warden seat

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail will have another gavel to pound after he was elected Elgin County Warden for 2000 at meeting of County Council members last week.

An eight-year veteran of Elgin County Council, McPhail, who ran against Aylmer Mayor Bob Habkirk, looks forward to the challenge.

"My goal as Warden for the year 2000 is straight forward - to stay the course of restructuring," he says. "Tough decisions were made in 1997 when we restructured. The goal now is to continue to implement the restructuring proposal in a manageable way."

McPhail spoke of how council reduced the number of elected officials, downsized staff and made everyone more accountable.

"Most importantly, we found a local solution, one made in Elgin," he says. "It was not imposed on us by a government appointed advisor. In Elgin we have accepted the provincial

restructuring challenge."

He adds that an accountable and efficient municipal government is a pledge all councillors must stake their reputation on.

With his political plate already full of a number of responsibilities, McPhail is confident he will be able to take on this new and challenging role.

"Given the recent restructuring policies of Queen's Park, I believe our main goal for 2000 is to promote our unique circumstances in Elgin, to defend our decisions and to stay the course," says McPhail. "We have demonstrated in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, an ability to change when change is required. But that change will be decided locally."

McPhail says he will work towards the redevelopment of Elgin Manor and finding a solution to the archives question.

"But, as Warden, I am only one voice on council, with one vote," he says. "The real work is done by the majority."



West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail has added Warden to his political resume as he was officially sworn in as Elgin County Warden for 2000. Here, McPhail poses with his family, from left, sons Shawn and Brent, daughter Heather, wife Liz and daughter Nicole.

# Liberals take Elgin; Harris gets majority

JUNE 7, 1999

Paul Mayne  
*The Chronicle*

In one of the closest races across the province, Liberal candidate and St. Thomas Mayor Steve Peters ousted Conservative candidate Bruce Smith to take the newly formed riding of Elgin-Middlesex-London.

The race was too close to call and wasn't determined until the final polls were in. When all was said and done, Peters grabbed 20,417 of the 44,201 votes cast in the riding. Bruce Smith followed with 19,249.

Others garnering votes included NDP candidate Dave LaPointe (3,455), Freedom Party candidate Ray Monteith (405), Green Party candidate John Fisher (391) and Independent Corey Janzen (284).

"It was an exciting evening and a long evening," an exhausted Peters told **The West Elgin Chronicle**. "But I entered this race with one thing in mind and that was to win."

Peters, who will hand in his resignation as St. Thomas Mayor tonight, feels it was his strong reputation of "getting things done" that won him this election.

"My work in St. Thomas and my contact throughout the county helped me tremendously," he says. "I am more than prepared to take on this new role. I know I have a lot to learn and want to get started right away."

Despite the hectic and crazy election night, Peters, along with his brother and close friend, found time to visit his father's grave. Percy Peters was a former St. Thomas councillor and longtime Liberal supporter.

"It's become a tradition that every election we visit him," says Peters. "He died in 1990 so he never even got to see me become mayor. I know he's pretty proud right about now."

Peters adds among all the congratulatory phone calls, he has already received concerns from his constituents.

"That's what I want for Elgin-Middlesex-London. I want us to have a loud voice when it comes to provincial issues," he says.



Elgin-Middlesex-London  
MPP Steve Peters

"Although the rest of the province may have spoken differently, it's time to get down to the business of running this province."

In the Lambton-Kent-Middlesex riding, which includes the Wardsville, Newbury and Glencoe area, it was another nail-biter as Conservative candidate Marcel Beaubien was re-elected as MPP by defeating Liberal candidate Larry O'Neill by 896 votes (19,561 to 18,665).

Other candidates in the riding included the NDPs Jim Lee (4,161) and Freedom Party candidate Wayne Forbes (1,079).

As far as the province was concerned, it was a strong show of

support for the Conservatives and Mike Harris as they took 59 of a possible 103 seats. The Liberals and Dalton McGuinty managed to grab 35 seats, an improvement over the 1995 election when they took 30 seats, but not enough to avoid a Conservative majority.

Howard Hampton and the NDPs may have had the roughest election by managing only nine seats, which may put their party status in jeopardy. Twelve seats are needed to keep party status.

In addressing supporters, Harris said he plans to continue with health cuts, welfare crackdown and providing more funding for health care and education.

"That's what makes this province great, it's people," says Harris. "For Ontario, the best is yet to come."

Despite the disappointment, McGuinty says things aren't over yet, in fact it's just beginning.

"This fight is not over," he told supporters. "We fought a fight for all the good reason: good schools; good hospitals; good health care; good education."

"Close to 2 million Ontarians voted Liberal. More than half said they wanted change."

Hampton, however, was a bit more subdued with the election results. He stated that he was happy to have won his home riding of Kenora-Rainy River in Northern Ontario and will stay on as leader of the NDP, despite its worst showing at the polls in more than 40 years.

## Elgin-Middlesex-London

	Votes	%
Steve Peters - Liberal	20,417	46.19
Bruce Smith - PC	19,249	43.54
Dave LaPointe - NDP	3,455	7.82
Ray Monteith - Freedom Party	405	0.92
John Fisher - Green Party	391	0.88
Cory Janzen - Independent	284	0.64

## Province of Ontario

103 Total Seats

#of seats

Mike Harris - PC	59
Dalton McGuinty - Liberal	35
Howard Hampton - NDP	9

## Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

217 Polling Stations

	Votes	%
Marcel Beaubien - PC	19,561	45
Larry O'Neill - Liberal	18,665	42.94
Jim Lee - NDP	4,161	9.58
Wayne Forbes - Freedom Party	1,079	2.48



# Provincial Election '99

*With a mixture of urban and rural residents, the riding of Elgin-Middlesex-London provides its six candidates with task of balancing the needs of constituents while keeping the promises of its provincial leader. Below, the six candidates all have their say in the Chronicle's election preview.*



## Ontario voters have their say June 3

There are a variety of issues that each political party finds to be the key factor in the upcoming election. Everything from health care to education, voters will decide June 3.

Locally, West Elgin and surrounding areas will be casting their votes for one of six candidates: John Fisher (Green Party), Cory Janzen (Independent), Dave LaPointe (NDP), Ray Monteith (Freedom Party), Steve Peters (Liberal) and Bruce Smith (PC).

The West Elgin Chronicle has given each candidate the opportunity to let the voters know what issues they feel are

important to the residents of Elgin-Middlesex-London.

Now that you know what each candidate stands for, it's time to vote, but your name must be on the List of Voters. If you are qualified to vote and have not received your Notice of Registration card for your current address, you should obtain a Certificate to Vote by 8 p.m. this Wednesday (June 2).

If you have recently moved and Canada Post has forwarded your card from your previous address, you should register and vote in the electoral district where you will be residing on election day. In West Elgin, you

will vote at the West Elgin Arena between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

You can also be added to the Voters List on election day if you make a statutory declaration and show the following documents to the poll official:

- ✓ one identification document with your name, address and signature (such as a driver's licence), or

- ✓ two identification documents: one with your name and signature and one with your name and address. Some examples would be a health card, hospital card, citizenship card, passport, utility bill, credit card, etc.

## LaPointe to steer clear of American-style health care

Allow me to introduce myself as the NDP candidate for Elgin-Middlesex-London. My wife Donna and I live in St. Thomas with our two children, ages six and eight.

My community involvement includes the Presidency of the Elgin-Middlesex-London NDP Riding Association, Recording Secretary of CAW Local 1520, First Vice-President of the United Way Board of Directors (St. Thomas), and an executive member of the St. Thomas and District Labour Council. I find the volunteer work I do for Christmas Care of St. Thomas very rewarding.

I am running in this election because I feel Ontarians have had it with Tory cuts and Liberal flip-flops. Working families and retirees need MPPs who will fight for them. Only the NDP will roll back tax cuts for the six per cent of Ontarians with taxable incomes over \$80,000 per year, and this will generate \$1.5 billion dollars in revenue.

In our first year of office we will stop the move to American-style for-profit health care and home care. We'll guarantee assessment by trained staff of all emergency cases within 15 minutes of entering the hospital.

We will cut university and college tuition fees by 10 per cent, restore rent control, build affordable housing and help the homeless rebuild their lives. We will restore worker protection laws and get tough on polluters by hiring 500 new environmental officers to inspect, monitor and enforce environmental regulations. We will keep these six commitments without raising the deficit a single cent.

I believe in an Ontario where everyone is given a chance to succeed and no one is left behind -- an Ontario where children don't have to sell chocolate bars to pay for basic school supplies, and where qualified young people can go to college or university without mortgaging their future.

I believe in a province where we can all count on quality emergency health care when we need it. Life in Ontario can be better for all its citizens -- and I will do everything I can to make that happen.

## Smith's says children should never settle for second best

**Name:** Bruce Smith  
**Riding:** Elgin-Middlesex-London

**Age:** 37

**Family:** Married

**Occupation:** Planner

It has been a great privilege and honour for me to play an integral role in the reform of the education system in Ontario since being elected in Ontario in June of 1995.

In my opinion, the children of Ontario should never have to settle for anything less than the best. As Parliamentary Assistance to the Minister of Education and Training, I met with and listened to students, individual parents and parent groups, school councils, teachers and community groups to ensure a clear plan was put in place to improve the quality of our children's education.

A rigorous curriculum, report card that parents can read and understand, standard province-wide tests, and more teacher time in the classroom are all part of this plan.

I am dedicated and committed to ensuring that all education reforms are to the benefit of the children in this province in order that they are prepared to find meaningful jobs and live fulfilling lives for future generations.

I believe that the people of Elgin-Middlesex-London share my opinion in that they want the very best for their children and families. On June 3, I would appreciate the support of the voters of Elgin-Middlesex-London in order to make Ontario a better place to work, live and raise our families.



Dave LaPointe

## Green Party recognizes earth's values

The Green Party is the political wing of the environmental movement. It recognizes the earth (land, air, water, etc.) as the source of life and of all economic activity.

It is therefore essential that society treats the environment in ways that will sustain mother earth from one generation to the next. Greens believe that certain community actions are required to maintain a healthy economic, social and political system. To encourage citizens to act in positive ways to environment and to each other, the Green Party suggests a tax shift.

High taxes on business, wages, bicycles, books, houses and all the 'good' things people need dampens demand, discourages job creation and harms community health and education standards.

Conservatives, Liberals and New Democrats all support the sales and income tax complete with exemptions, rebates and loopholes. If taxes kill jobs, and they do, why did the Conservatives give us the provincial sales tax in stages of three, five, seven and eight per cent? Why did they kill more jobs by giving us the provincial income tax?

Only the Green Party suggest a tax-shift from the 'goods' to the 'bad', like stripped forest, urban sprawl, pollution and its related health costs, waste and criminal activity. These costs to society are currently not factored into the costs of products. Greens want full cost accounting.

Keeping resources artificially cheap (i.e. low taxes) only leads to overuse, land speculation resulting in the push to the suburbs, the car culture and the loss of revenue for social needs like local schools and hospitals.

This tax-shift will encourage positive community actions and penalize harmful actions. A key element in the Green Party platform is the focus on community oriented economic and social involvement and the associated activity. Greens would favour family farms, small business and local decision making.

Greens wants proportional representation in government whereby a certain percentage of the popular vote would translate into seats in Parliament.

Please vote from the heart and elect the candidate that offers incentives for economic growth and social justice based on a healthy environment. Vote Green Party and John Fisher.

## Peters to put needs of the community first

A strong, thoughtful leader, who believes in consensus building. Steve has made, and will make decisions that benefit the greater community.

Steve Peters was first elected Alderman to St. Thomas City Council in 1988. In a landslide victory, 1991 saw him elected the youngest mayor in the history of St. Thomas. His constituents spoke loudly and clearly when he was re-elected mayor in both '94 and '97.

Steve first faced a community that was gripped in economic crisis. He ushered in an attitude of increased communication both in the city and the outlying county areas.

St. Thomas is now the envy of Ontario municipalities as a leader in attracting new business, residential development, and industry.

"Public service is about being open and accessible, and encouraging input and ideas from the community," says Peters. "I have spent the last eight years putting a personal touch on politics, taking my work to the streets, as part of the community I serve. I know the people and the issues, and deal with those on a daily basis."

Steve believes in listening and being accountable to those he represents. "I believe in balance. My experiences have taught me that you must balance the needs of the community with fiscal responsibility. That is how you continue to provide and deliver the services that citizens want and deserve."

"This is where the Harris government has erred. There has been no consideration for the human costs involved. I am not opposed to change, but change should occur with thought and consultation. We must look at how our actions today are going to effect the people tomorrow."

This election is about respect. It is about how we live and where we live. This election is about how we as a community take care of each other. It is about protecting the integrity of health care services and maintaining a first-class education system for both rural and urban Ontario students.

On June 3, the voters of Elgin-Middlesex-London have a very clear choice. "I am asking you to help me put the people of our communities first by supporting 'The People's Campaign'."



Steve Peters



Bruce Smith

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## Who's In Charge?

The Thames Valley District School Board passed the reigns of a number of its principals to local business and community leaders last week. The 'Principal for a Day' program was held across the province. Here, WEES principal Martha Foster hands over some of her daily paperwork to County Warden and West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail who had his hands full for the day. APR. 17/00



## Mohan Can!

West Elgin roads employee Tom Mohan continued his domination behind the wheel at the Association of Ontario Road Superintendents Safety Truck Roadeo competition, finishing first in Elgin County for the second year in a row. Fellow employee Gary Long finished third. Mohan then took the overall title among the four competing counties (Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford and Haldimand-Norfolk) and will move on to the provincial finals in St. Mary's September 14. Here, Mohan, centre, receives his trophies from West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail, left, and Road Superintendent Rick Jackson.

## Not much competition yet for local elections

The run for Mayor of West Elgin will now be decided by the voters as West Lorne resident Joe Fischer has tossed his hat into the ring for the Nov. 13 municipal election. The former reeve of the Village of West Lorne and past councillor and deputy reeve of the former Municipality of Aldborough filed his intent to run against incumbent Duncan McPhail late last week.

New to the election scene is Tom Jones, who filed last week for the position of Deputy Mayor. He will be running against incumbent Graham Warwick. The three other councillor positions have no challengers as of late Friday afternoon. In these races the incumbents Mike Mooser (Ward 2), Trudy Balint (Ward 3) and Brad Bandeen (Ward 1) would be acclaimed.

In Dutton/Dunwich, so far there are no races to speak of. Current Mayor Rien Van Brenk, Deputy Mayor Bonnie Vowel and Councillor Elizabeth Kornaker (Ward 1) have all filed their intent to run again. Newcomer Fred Groch has decided to run in Ward 2, where two positions need to be filled. Current councillors Leta West and Peter Hentz have chosen not to run again.

Nominations to run in West Elgin or Dutton/Dunwich must be received at the respective municipal office by this Friday (Oct. 13) at 5 p.m.

2000

## Knutson paints Elgin red, again; Chrétien wins third majority DEC. 2000

In one of the closest races in southwestern Ontario, Liberal incumbent Gar Knutson was able to hold on to his seat by just over four per cent, to win his third term in office. Knutson finished with 17,080 votes (40.83%), ahead of Canadian Alliance candidate Bill Walters with 15,502 votes (37.05%).

On the national front, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien became the first Canadian leader in 55 years to win three consecutive majority governments.

In fact, the Liberal government added seven additional seats (now with 172) from when they called the election six



*Gar Knutson*

weeks ago. The Canadian Alliance gained slightly picking up nine additional seats to return to Ottawa as the Official Opposition.

The Bloc Québécois hold 37 seats with the NDP and PC just barely holding onto

official party status with 13 and 12 seats respectively.

### Elgin-Middlesex-London

With 229/229 polls reporting the election results are as follows:

<b>Gar Knutson, Lib</b>	<b>17,202 (41.02%)</b>
Bill Walters, Alliance	15,496 (36.95%)
Delia Reiche, PC	6,080 (14.49%)
Tim McCallum, NDP	2,319 (5.52%)
John Fisher, Green	431 (1.03%)
Ken DeVries, CHP	407 (0.97%)

## McPhail wins second term as Elgin County Warden

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail will once again assume the mantle of power in Elgin County as he was elected to a second term as warden.

Aylmer Mayor Bob Habirkir also ran for the warden's seat.

McPhail, who recently won his second term as mayor of West Elgin, is looking to continue working on the number of issues that county council began over the past year. Some of the issues McPhail hopes to see come to fruition include:



*Duncan McPhail*

✓beginning of the OPP policing contract and police services board.

✓breaking ground for the new Elgin Manor.

✓taking over ambulance service as of Jan. 1.

✓starting an archives for Elgin County.

✓working with an agriculture commodity group in conjunction with county council.

"There's going to be so much going on in the next year that I wanted to see these projects

through," says McPhail.

Despite his political experience, McPhail is still aware that each new term in office holds its own surprises.

"I remember last year when I was elected warden I told council that I didn't know what to

expect," he says. "And after one year on the job you still don't know what to expect as warden. The county continues to move and reshape itself and you have to change with it and make the best of it."

# X CIVIC ELECTION 2000 X

The West Elgin Chronicle

**Liz McPhail passes away**

The communities of Elgin County are in mourning after the unexpected passing away of a cherished woman in the community.

Liz McPhail, 49 years old, wife of Elgin County Warden and West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail passed away on Tuesday June 26, after being diagnosed with cancer earlier in the month.

McPhail, known for her wit and charm was also a well-known hairdresser in the community of Rodney and was also a common sight at numerous community events and functions held within the county.

She is survived by her husband and children, Brent, Shawn, Heather and Nicole. Close relatives live throughout the province and United States.

The funeral was held on Friday afternoon where she was laid to rest at Purcell-McLean Cemetery.

2001

## Council praise work of former councillor Coles

West Elgin Council honoured Bob Coles, one of the areas longest running community activists, with a number of kind words at council last week.

Coles has been involved in the community, whether it be as a councillor or member of a local committee for 57 years. He chose not to run this past municipal election but remains on the policing committee.

"It was very annoying when he was right - and he was always right," joked Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick. "Thanks to Bob for passing his knowledge on to us younger people."

"Bob needs to be honoured for his long devotion to the area and he'll be missed on council," said Councillor Mike Mooser. "With all the good service he's done he'll be remembered for years to come."

"I met Bob three years ago and he was just full of knowledge and wisdom," says Councillor Trudy Balint. "I hope I can take some of that with me for the next three years."

"It's going to be tough to fill Bob's shoes for the Village of Rodney," says Councillor Brad Bandeen. "But not to worry, I know where he lives."

Council plans to honour Coles at a more official ceremony at a later date.

"It's been an honour to sit on council these past years and I wish everyone the best in the years to come," said Coles.

## The Municipality of West Elgin Council



**Duncan McPhail**  
Mayor



**Graham Warwick**  
Deputy Mayor



**Brad Bandeen**  
Ward 1 Councillor



**Michael Mooser**  
Ward 2 Councillor



**Trudy Balint**  
Ward 3 Councillor

## Some familiar, some new faces on local councils as voters speak up

The voters of West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich hit the polls last Monday to choose who would lead them for the next three years. And there will be some new faces to remember - in Dutton/Dunwich at least.

The Municipality of West Elgin, however, will see the same faces for the next three years, minus Councillors Paul Gangle and Bob Coles who chose not to run. The current council of seven, due to amalgamation, will be reduced to five.

Duncan McPhail will keep his mayor's chair after defeating Joe Fischer (954-685), Graham Warwick will stay on as deputy mayor with a defeat of Tom Jones

(898-701) and Councillor Brad Bandeen will continue on as Ward 1 Councillor after defeating Terry Carson (522-203).

Councillors Michael Mooser (Ward 2) and Trudy Balint (Ward 3) were both acclaimed.

"There is reason out there that indicates there is a comfort level out there," says McPhail. "But we all know that the home-work doesn't end. We all have three years under our belts together and we have to grow on the success we've had to date."

The Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich will have two new faces for sure. John Yokom (363) and Rosemary Sealey (290) will serve Ward 2, defeating candidates

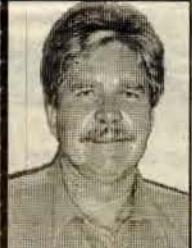
Robert Stone (259), Fred Groch (193) and John Gillett (83).

In Ward 1, newcomer Gerry Leeson defeated incumbent Elizabeth Kornaker (227-223), however, a recount was scheduled for this past weekend.

For the position of deputy mayor it was the incumbent Bonnie Vowel defeating Hugh MacGinnis (803-328). Mayor Rien Van Brenk was acclaimed.

"It's always good to get some new faces and new blood on council every now and then," says Van Brenk. "A lot has happened over the last three years and I'm prepared to work hard with our new council."

## The Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich Council



**Rien Van Brenk**  
Mayor



**Bonnie Vowel**  
Deputy Mayor



**Gerry Leeson**  
Ward 1 Councillor



**Rosemary Sealey**  
Ward 2 Councillor



**John Yokom**  
Ward 2 Councillor

## Is council forgetting West Lorne?

According to members of the West Lorne Business Association (WLBA), the Village of West Lorne is lacking when it comes to services such as street cleaning, snow removal and weed control.

Members of the association met with West Elgin Council last week to discuss the matters they feel are taking away from the success of local businesses.

"If you consider the half full/half empty scenario, we're the half full kind of people," says Tom Jones, Chairman of the WLBA, of the members polite approach at the meeting. "So you can imagine what the other ones are saying."

Also on their list of concerns were updating street lights in the downtown core, the on-going problem with the traffic lights, changing the sign on the municipal building to promote unity, and the hiring of a promoter for the West Elgin area.

"There seems to be more garbage up town than before," says Jones. "It seems a year ago we didn't notice it as much but there's now more garbage and sludge. When you walk off the curb it's there. We're not here to point fingers and lay

blame, but it [West Lorne] needs more maintenance."

West Elgin hires a company from London once a year to clean the main roads

in Rodney and West Lorne at a cost of \$3,500.

The association also noted the garbage

See 'Improving' Page 2

## Cops nab \$1 million in pot

Elgin OPP, in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, netted \$1 million in marijuana plants from West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich during a two day blitz of the area.

Entitled 'Project Chopper,' this drug eradication program targets local farm fields for marijuana plants. A military helicopter assisted in this latest effort, raiding to ground troops of plant locations.

"You'll find people planting them in corn crops figuring they'll be hidden," says Elgin OPP Community Services Constable Dennis Harwood. "Not only are they producing an illegal drug, but farmers are losing a substantial amount of crops. And that's money out of their pockets."

Harwood encourages farmers and local residents to keep a watchful eye out for suspicious cars in the area, especially those seen in remote areas near farmers fields.

"And there's a spin-off to this as well," adds Harwood. "They're already attempting to grow marijuana illegally, so what's to stop them from stealing farm equipment, ATVs or even break into your home."

This latest bust brought in 1,000 plants, each with a street value of \$1,000.

See 'OPP Briefs' Page 2 SEPT 25/00

# Councillors approve 25% pay hike

DEC. 11

*To split councillor savings with taxpayers*

2000

In one of the first motions of the new West Elgin Council, councillors Mike Mooser, Trudy Balint and Brad Bandeen voted themselves a 25% pay hike for the new three year term. Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick will see a 23% raise while Mayor Duncan McPhail will bring in an additional 12%. All will receive a \$30 increase per meeting.

The additional money comes from the savings of two less councillors this time around. Council decided to split the savings between themselves and the taxpay-  
ers.

"I think we have to have an increase for our meetings," says Mooser. "We've had no increase over the last three years. We now have a bigger area to cover. I'm not in here to get rich but you have to look at reality with the way things are set up."

"If you do nothing to keep council current by moving this [raise] along over the years, you're leaving some council in the future way behind and leaving them with an increase that will be hard to justify,"

says McPhail.

Along with an increase in regular meet-  
ing pay, increases were also made for committee meetings, special meetings and mileage.

## West Elgin Council remuneration

### Regular meetings:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
<i>Councillors</i>	\$120	\$150
<i>Deputy Mayor</i>	\$130	\$160
<i>Mayor</i>	\$250	\$280

### Special meetings:

<i>All Council</i>	\$85	\$100
	(Three hours or less)	
<i>All Council</i>	\$120	\$150
	(Three hours or more)	

### Committee meetings:

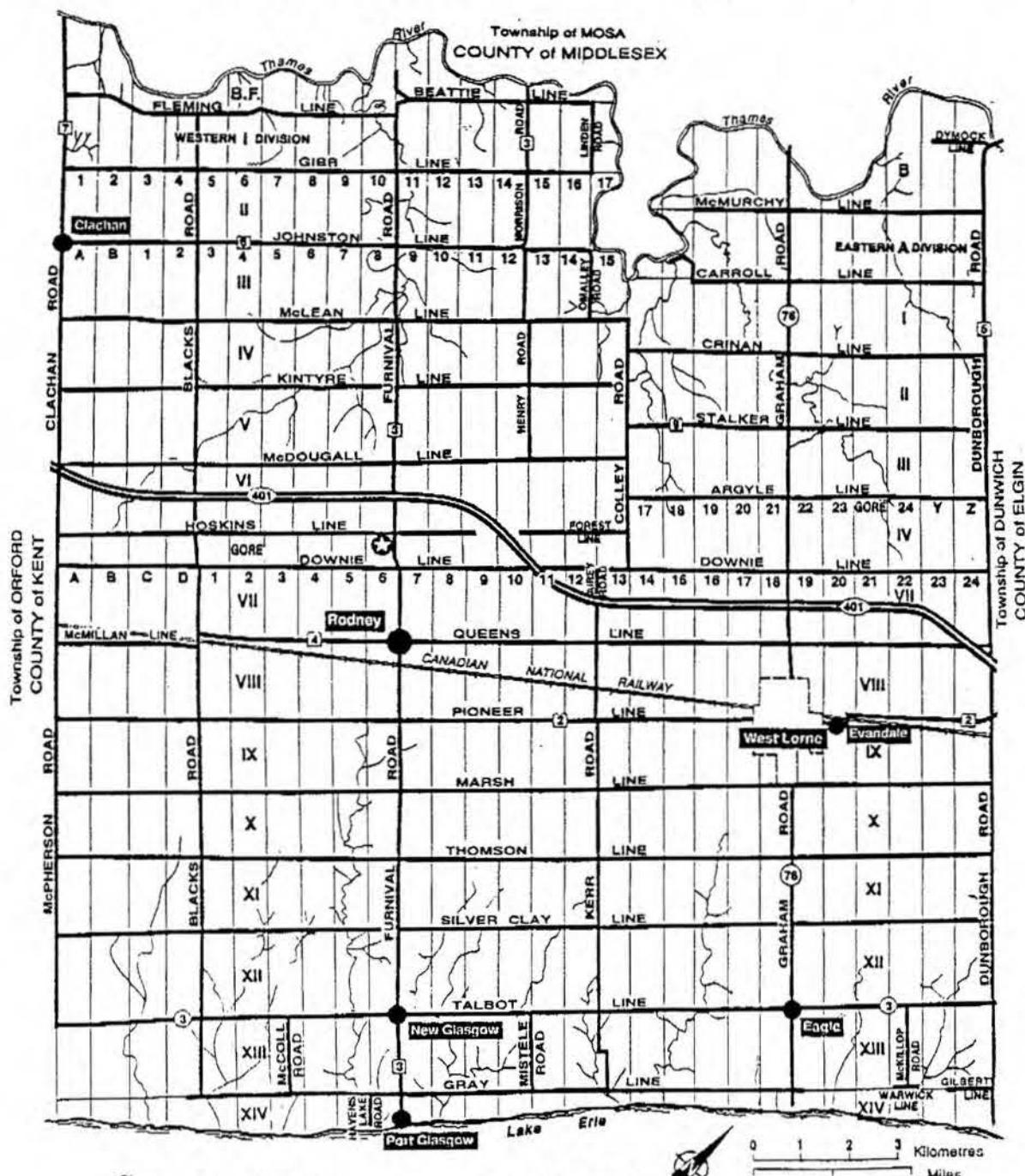
<i>All Council</i>	\$85	\$100
<i>All Council</i>	30¢	35¢

### Mileage (per km):

# Township of ALDBOROUGH

WEST ELGIN

2000



CONCESSIONS RENAMED

FOR 911

TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL OFFICES

MAY 1996

## OHS offer \$1.45 for West Elgin utility

By Paul Mayne  
*The Chronicle*

The numbers are finally in and now comes the hard part - the decision.

West Elgin Council made the figures public last week in regards to the potential sale of their hydro utility to Ontario Hydro Services (OHS). The offer came in at \$1,450,000 to take over the approximately 1,250 customers in the Villages of Rodney and West Lorne, very close to what they expected after getting a financial analysis completed by BDO Dunwoody.

The municipality, like others across the province, are "in somewhat of a dilemma" according to West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail. A decision must be made, and it won't be an easy one.

Because of Bill 35, introduced by the provincial government, all municipally-owned utilities must either incorporate under commercial/business legislation or sell the utility. This must be completed by this November.

"We've gone into the market place and gathered up as much information we could get our hands on," says McPhail.

"Our situation is unique because we share with the water treatment plant. We've had a lot of discussions around the table. This is not an issue council has taken lightly."

The offer from OHS would include everything from the trucks, building, poles, wires, etc. The current West Elgin employees would be hired on by OHS with their seniority honoured as well as a higher pay rate and a better benefit and retirement package.

think we're going to escape that."

The Ontario Energy Board will be setting the rates the utilities can charge.

Should council decide to sell their utility, they would avoid a 33 per cent Capital Transfer Tax on the value of the utility. Should they choose to sell after the November deadline they would face the tax, somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$500,000.

"I'm not in favour of selling," says Councillor Mike Mooser. "The instant money sounds great but in three years down the road your money is gone and your utility is gone. It's a one-time gain for a longtime loss. You know the money is going to be gone."

"I believe we can do it on our own and be profitable at it. We gave a lot of options. It's going to be tough at first but we can do it."

With the option of retaining the utility, a financial analysis revealed that West Elgin could see a profit level of approximately \$27,800 in the first year, with close to \$425,000 profit over a 10 year period.

"There's a new way to do business and, if we decide to do it on our own, we do

## Shedding light

**Who:** Ontario Hydro Services (OHS).

**What:** Bidding to purchase hydro services.

**Where:** The Municipality of West Elgin

**How much:** \$1,450,000

**Why:** Bill 35 states that all municipality-owned utilities must either incorporate or sell.

**Decision:** West Elgin Council must make their decision by the end of this month.

**Deadline:** November, 2000.

Plans would be for West Elgin to be serviced out of Strathroy and Chatham. OHS also guarantees rates will be frozen, but McPhail is skeptical.

"Take that with a grain of salt," he says. "In all honesty, the possibility for increasing hydro rates is out there. I don't

See 'Major' Page 3

MAY 2000

93 INT TANDEM - Len & Harry

- George  
- Harry

81 TANDEM - Len? (Harry)

